

this one-sided "war" is even still going on.

What a waste. What are we accomplishing? Probably just the opposite from what we should be trying to do. Probably the only thing our bombing has accomplished is to keep Saddam Hussein in power by making the U.S. so unpopular in Iraq. These people were our allies in the 1980s. They could be our friends once again if we would stop bombing them.

Iraq is no threat whatsoever to the U.S. unless we continue to bomb them for so long and so much that they are forced to send terrorists in here in acts of desperation.

The Monitor article yesterday also said this: "But beyond Britain, Washington lacks enthusiastic international support in its crusade against the Iraqi leader. Baghdad claims that the U.S.-led sanctions are leading to mass malnutrition and unusually high rates of infant mortality."

Several reports have said that our sanctions over the last 10 years have caused the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqi children. How would we feel about a country that was doing this to us?

The top of the front page of the Washington Post a couple of months ago had a headline which said: "Under Iraqi Skies, a Canvas of Death." The subhead said: "Town of Villages Reveals Human Cost of U.S.-led Sorties in 'No-Fly' Zones."

The story, a very long one, told of several children who were named in the story who were killed in different U.S. bombing raids.

The lead paragraphs told this story: "Suddenly out of the clear blue sky, the forgotten war being waged by the United States and Britain over Iraq visited its lethal routine on the shepherds and farmers of Toq al-Ghazalat about 10:30 a.m. on May 17.

"Omran Harbi Jawair, 13, was squatting on his haunches at the time, watching the family sheep as they nosed the hard, flat ground in search of grass. He wore a white robe but was bareheaded in spite of an unforgiving sun. Omran, who liked to kick a soccer ball around this dusty village, had just finished fifth grade at the little school a 15-minutes walk from his mud-brick home. A shepherd boy's summer vacation lay ahead.

"That is when the missile landed.

"Without warning, according to several youths standing nearby, the device came crashing down in an open field 200 yards from the dozen houses of Toq al-Ghazalat. A deafening explosion cracked across the silent land. Shrapnel flew in every direction. Four shepherds were wounded. And Omran, the others recalled, lay dead in the dirt, most of his head torn off, the white of his robe stained red.

"He was only 13 years old, but he was a good boy," sobbed Omran's father, Harbi Jawair, 61."

I repeat, what would we think about a country that was doing this to our children.

The Post story said that "a week of conversations with wounded Iraqis and the families of those killed . . . showed that civilian deaths and injuries are a regular part" of this air war.

The Monitor story quoted one man as saying "Iraq does not even have the means to pose a threat to its neighbors," and it is certainly not a threat to us.

Saddam Hussein forced us to take action in 1991 because he had moved into Kuwait and was threatening Saudi Arabia and the entire Middle East.

But we now know that much of what he was doing was saber rattling. His military strength was greatly exaggerated as we found when many of his best soldiers began surrendering to anyone they could, even CNN television news.

Saddam is a very bad man who has been responsible for horrible things happening to his people. I am convinced that the only thing keeping him in power and keeping his people from revolting and throwing him out has been our continued bombing.

We should never send our troops to foreign battlefields and especially start bombing people unless there is a real and legitimate threat to our national security or a very vital U.S. interest at stake.

This administration, Mr. Speaker, has deployed troops to other countries more than the six previous administrations put together. This administration bombed a medicine factory in Sudan and bombed Afghanistan and Kosovo and Iraq. The timing of the start of these bombings was usually at a time when the President was having serious personal problems or, in Iraq's case, the eve of his impeachment.

They say that those who hate war the most are those who have actually been in one, fighting on the front lines in a shooting war who have seen the horror of it and thus want to do everything possible to avoid it.

Perhaps it is because almost no one in this administration has actually fought on the front lines of a shooting war that they have been so cavalier about or so quick to bomb people. Whatever the reason, the situation is not the same as it was in 1991. We need to stop this \$2 billion air war now.

#### GAIL M. EDWARDS: A TRUE AMERICAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, to me, the real heroes in our country today are those people who go to work every day, play by the rules, provide for their loving families and contribute back to their communities.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one such American hero, Mr. Gail Edwards, on the occasion of his retirement, after nearly 35 years as a pilot with Trans World Airlines.

Gail is what I think we would call an ideal American, a man whose life and

career have made us all proud. He was born on July 16, 1935 and grew up in Indiana with his mother, Dorris Wannetta Edwards, and his father Harold Perry Edwards, and his brother Victor Royce Edwards.

He was the first of his family to graduate from college, and he received his degree from Indiana University in 1957. He joined the United States Air Force immediately after college, fulfilling his lifelong dream of flying.

As a child, he had spent many hours building model airplanes and hanging them around his room. He volunteered to fly volunteer airlift missions to Vietnam during the Vietnam War and then served in Air National Guard for many years after the war, retiring as a Full Bird Colonel, Vice Wing Commander, Tactical Airlift Wing, and received 2 Air Force commendation medals.

Years later, when the Nation was in the Gulf War conflict, he volunteered again. He ran into the commanding general of the California Air National Guard and said, "Call me if you need a grizzly gray-haired old man to fly a 130." They both smiled, and Gail knew he was not going to get a call. But they also both knew, if he did get a call, he would say, "You bet."

Gail loved the Air Force for opening up vast vistas for him. He believed the Air Force was a Godsend. He loved every minute of it. While on duty in England and Japan, Gail met and married Kathleen Riley, an English, speech and drama teacher on the American Air Force bases in 1962.

When he left the Air Force in 1966, he went to work for TWA and has been a pilot for that airline for nearly 35 years. He has said that the Air Force taught him to fly and allowed him to experience the world, but TWA gave him the opportunity to share it with his family and all the other passengers.

Gail lives with his wife of 38 years in Redondo Beach, California. His children are Kimberly Ellen Edwards, one of San Diego's best television journalists, and Jonathan Kyle Edwards of Scottsdale.

He enjoyed working for TWA and, even more, he loved serving his country. He is extremely patriotic, just the kind of citizen we all want to know and to be.

He has volunteered with the United Methodist Church, Little League, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Indian Guides, and Indian Maidens. He built playhouses for his children and helped them with their homework.

But first and foremost, Gail is an American and a pilot. He loves his family, he loves his job, and he loves his country. I am honored to have this opportunity to recognize a real American hero, Gail Edwards, and to thank him for his service to TWA and to his Nation.